Modernisation of IA Aircrafts

†*140. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to modernise the aircrafts of Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) In order to augment capacity and replace its ageing fleet, Indian Airlines has both short term and long term plans to induct aircraft in its fleet.

To meet the short term requirements, Indian Airlines has considered leasing of aircraft on dry lease basis. Two A300B4 aircraft were taken on lease in May/June 1998 for a period of three years which was further extended for a period of two years i.e. till May/June, 2003. Two A320 aircraft were taken on lease in April/May, 2001 for a period of five years. Four A-320 aircraft are in the process of being taken on lease for a period of five years. Two of these are proposed to be inducted in November, 2001 followed by another two in March, 2002.

Indian Airlines is also in the process of acquiring six 50 seater aircraft on dry lease basis for better connectivity in the North-east.

To meet its long term requirements, Indian Airlines has carried out a techno-economic evaluation for induction of aircraft in its fleet. Government has now advised Indian Airlines to formulate a specific proposal in this regard for Government approval.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.